# UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT EASTERN DISTRICT OF LOUISIANA

### INDICTMENT FOR WIRE FRAUD

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA \* CRIMINAL NO.

v. \* SECTION:

DAVID MAPP ARTHUR

\* VIOLATION: 18 U.S.C. § 2
a/k/a ROBERT DALE ARTHUR

\* 18 U.S.C. § 1343
\*

a/k/a ROBERT PEEBLES ARTHUR a/k/a ROBERT TRENT \*

a/k/a ROBERT TRENT PEEBLES

a/k/a DALE ROBERT ARTHUR \* a/k/a ROBERT ARTHUR KURTZ

The Grand Jury charges that:

#### COUNT 1

#### A. AT ALL TIMES MATERIAL HEREIN:

1. The defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, owned and operated a replica vintage Corvette manufacturing business in Mandeville, Louisiana. The business used several names including: Retro Vette, Corvette Creations, Vetterod, Inc., Vintage Vette, and Streetrod Corvette.

- 2. The defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, would advertise in several national car magazines and maintained an internet website offering to build custom vintage Chevrolet Corvettes.

  The website listed telephone numbers for prospective customers to contact him.
- The defendant, DAVID MAPP ARTHUR, has been known to use the following aliases: ROBERT DALE ARTHUR, DALE ARTHUR, ROBERT PEEBLES ARTHUR ROBERT TRENT, ROBERT TRENT PEEBLES, DALE ROBERT ARTHUR, and ROBERT ARTHUR KURTZ.

## B. THE SCHEME TO DEFRAUD

Beginning at a time unknown, but on or about June 1, 2007 and continuing through on or about June 2008, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, did knowingly and willfully devise and intend to devise a scheme and artifice to defraud victim OB, by falsely representing to victim OB that he would manufacture a replica 1950's or 1960's era Chevrolet Corvette, for a fee when in truth and in fact, the defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, simply accepted victim OB's money for a replica Corvette, then never provided the Chevrolet Corvette to victim OB. Therefore, instead of providing victim OB. with a replica Chevrolet Corvette, the defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, converted victim OB's money for his personal use.

It was a part of the scheme to defraud, that defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, through magazine advertisements as well as an internet website, solicited customers to contract with him to build a vintage kit Chevrolet Corvette, which is a new automobile designed to resemble a late 1950's or early 1960's Corvette.

It was further a part of the scheme to defraud that the defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, met with victim OB, on or about August 1, 2007 at the defendant's warehouse in Mandeville, where the defendant showed a replica Corvette that he had built in order to entice victim OB.

It was further a part of the scheme to defraud that after this meeting on or about August 1, 2007 and viewing the replica Corvette victim OB gave the defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, \$7,500.00, representing a down payment to the defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, to construct a 1962 red Chevrolet Corvette.

It was further a part of the scheme to defraud that on or about August 13, 2007, defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, contacted victim OB telephonically and told him the price of certain components had increased and victim OB mailed a check for \$18,500.00.

It was further a part of the scheme to defraud that on or about August 29, 2007 defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, emailed a picture to victim OB showing a brand new engine and painted body which defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, represented to be victim OB's 1962 red Corvette, where in truth and in fact it was not. Rather it was a stock photograph easily available on the internet designed to defraud victim OB into believing that his car was progressing as promised.

It was further a part of the scheme to defraud that on or about October 23, 2007, defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, emailed victim OB more pictures showing a car in manufacturing process, when in truth and in fact the defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, was not producing any car for victim OB.

It was further a part of the scheme to defraud that on or about November 2, 2007 defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, telephoned victim OB indicating he needed a payment of \$7,500.00.

It was further a part of the scheme and artifice to defraud that the defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, cause victim OB to mail a payment of \$7,500.00 to the defendant on or about November 3, 2007.

. It was further a part of the scheme to defraud that on or about December 6, 2007, defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, emailed victim OB and demanded another \$5,000.00.

It was further a part of the scheme to defraud that on or about December 7, 2007 that defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, caused victim OB to mail a payment of \$5,000.00.

It was further a part of the scheme to defraud that on or about March 27, 2008, defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, emailed victim OB that the car was finished and ready for pick up.

It was further a part of the scheme to defraud that as of the present date September 9, 2011 the defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, has never delivered the replica 1962 red Chevrolet Corvette to victim OB as the defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, has promised many times despite receiving a total of \$38,500.00 from victim OB.

## C. THE USE OF THE INTERSTATE WIRE SYSTEM:

On or about March 27, 2008, in the Eastern District of Louisiana and elsewhere, the defendant, **DAVID MAPP ARTHUR**, for the purpose of executing and attempting to execute the scheme and artifice to defraud as described in Parts A and B, did knowingly and willfully cause to be transmitted by means of wire communications in interstate commerce, certain writings, signs,

signals, and sounds that is by email, utilizing the internet between Texas and Louisiana which contained a false representation that the car was complete and ready for pick up by victim OB.

All in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 2 and 1343.

A TRUE BILL:

FOREPERSON

M LETTEN

United States Attorney

Louisiana Bar Roll Number 8517

AN MASELLI MANN

First Assistant United States Attorney

Louisiana Bar Roll Number 9020

CARTER K. D. GUICE, Jr.

Assistant United States Attorney Louisiana Bar Roll Number 16771

New Orleans, Louisiana September 9, 2011